

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A laser oscillator comprising:
a discharge tube operable to pass laser gas inside thereof and to excite the laser gas; and
a laser gas passage operable to supply the laser gas to said discharge tube, said laser gas passage being connected to said discharge tube,

wherein a width B of said discharge tube in a direction normal to a gas flow direction in said laser gas passage near a connection portion of said discharge tube and said laser gas passage is larger than an inner diameter A of said discharge tube, and a following relation is satisfied

$$1.1A < B < 1.7A$$

9. (Currently amended) A laser oscillator comprising:
a discharge tube operable to pass laser gas inside thereof and to excite the laser gas; and
a laser gas passage operable to supply laser gas to said discharge tube, said laser gas passage being connected to said discharge tube,

wherein a columnar protrusion is provided to said discharge tube, said columnar protrusion being provided at a portion opposite to a connection portion of said discharge tube and said laser gas passage,

wherein the following relations are satisfied

$$0.5A < C < 0.9A$$

$$0.7A < D < 0.9A, \text{ and}$$

wherein A is an inner diameter of said discharge tube, C is a height of said columnar protrusion from a center of said discharge tube and D is an inner diameter of said columnar protrusion.

10. (Previously presented) The laser oscillator of claim 8, further comprising:
a columnar protrusion being provided to said discharge tube at a portion opposite to a

connection portion of said discharge tube and said laser passage,

wherein the following relations are satisfied

$$1.1A < B < 1.7A$$

$$0.5A < C < 0.9A$$

$$0.7A < D < 0.9A, \text{ and}$$

wherein C is a height of said columnar protrusions from a center of said discharge tube, and D is a an inner diameter of said columnar protrusion.

11. (Previously presented) The laser oscillator of claim 9, wherein said columnar protrusion is composed of dielectric materials.

12. (Previously presented) The laser oscillator of claim 10, wherein said columnar protrusion is composed of dielectric materials.

13. (Previously presented) A laser oscillator comprising:
a discharge tube having two ends and being operable to pass laser gas inside thereof and to excite the laser gas, said discharge tube being provided with a hole opened to an outside thereof;
a laser gas passage operable to supply laser gas to said discharge tube, said laser gas passage being connected to said discharge tube;
electrodes disposed at both ends of said discharge tube;
a high voltage power supply operable to apply a high voltage between said electrodes; and
an auxiliary electrode covering the opened hole, said auxiliary electrodes being provided outside of said discharge tube,

wherein said auxiliary electrode is connected to one of said electrodes via a high resistance resistor, and a distance between the hole and an electrode not connected with said auxiliary electrode is between $0.4L$ and $0.7L$, where L is a distance between said electrodes disposed at both ends of said discharge tube.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The laser oscillator of claim 13, wherein a resistance of said high resistance resistor is 1 M Ω or more and 100 M Ω or less.